

summary

So we are experiencing an increase in proposed transmission line projects in the west, and many of these transmission lines are proposed to connect renewable generation in remote locations to distant load centers, and is a likelihood that they will cross public lands. As transmission line projects are proposed and applications for right-of-way are submitted to the BLM, the issues of electric reliability, environmental impact, and the appropriate separation distance between existing and proposed high voltage transmission lines will likely be raised. In general, reliability objectives tend to drive lines further apart, whereas environmental considerations and cost tend to drive lines closer together.

There is no one absolute answer for the appropriate distance between all high voltage transmission lines. Instead, there are a number of factors that should be considered. Several of them are listed on this slide.

First, the need to avoid line failures and redirected transmission that cannot be handled by the remaining operable lines. Secondly, minimizing land use and environmental effects as well as construction right-of-way and operational cost. And third, a company's risk tolerance, the company proposing might be a utility, may not be, proposing the transmission line.

WECC performance-based reliability criteria cannot be directly applied to establish minimum separation distances for NEPA alternative development. The

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WECC path rating is determined too late in the NEPA process to be used in the alternative development, it's generally at the final environmental impact stage.

The ICF Report presents a conceptual framework that may be applied by land management agencies, consultants and others during scoping to evaluate the reasonableness of alternatives relative to electric system reliability. And finally, this webinar presented the perspectives of the BLM as well as information about the WECC Reliability Subcommittee and what they're considering relative to corridors, reliability and transmission line siting as well as a framework for determining the minimum separation distance between transmission lines.

I want to thank members of the audience for your attention and very thoughtful questions. Please complete the Metrics That Matter Evaluation form you will receive via e-mail today or tomorrow. Tell us whether you liked this webinar format and how it compares to the interactive broadcast format you're used to. If you miss something or would like to review anything we talked about, this webinar and the next will be posted on the ICF website as well as the BLM's Knowledge Resource Center, KRC. I also want to thank our speakers, Walt George of the BLM, Brian Keel of Salt River Project and the WECC Reliability Subcommittee, and Venkat Banunarayanan of ICF International for taking the time to share their expertise.

And with that, the webinar will now end.